Let's Invent a New Product

George Washington Carver spent his career inventing new products from agricultural materials. For example, he developed peanut butter by simply grinding up peanuts. Not all of the products that he invented were foods. Plastic from soybeans and library paste from sweet potatoes are good examples. During his career, he invented hundreds of new uses for soybeans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cow peas, and pecans.

In the space below, write a story telling about a new product that you would like to invent from your favorite Missouri crop. Invent either a food item or some other kind of useful product. Explain how you will invent your product and tell what it will be good for. You might like to include a drawing of your product.

Want to read more about George Washington Carver?

Ask your teacher or librarian to help you find one of these books:

The Story of George Washington Carver by Eva Moore. Scholastic Inc. 1971. A Pocketful of Goobers by Barbara Mitchell, Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1986. A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver by Aliki. Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1988.

Show-Me Agriculture is supported by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The publication is developed and written by Dr. Lyndon Irwin and Barbara Irwin, experienced educators and educational materials developers from Southwest Missouri State University. It has been classroom tested and this issue has also been reviewed by personnel at George Washington Carver National Monument. Design, layout and illustrations ©02 Carla Steck. Teachers may reproduce any pages for use with their students in the classroom.

